MAY 23.

The President, Dr. LEIDY, in the chair.

Forty-four persons present.

On Bacillus anthracis.—Prof. LEIDY stated that Dr. Robert Gladfelter, veterinary surgeon, had submitted to his examination a bottle of blood from a cow. The animal, apparently well on Wednesday, May 10th, and milked the same evening, died the next morning. The cause was not clear but was suspected to be the result of anthrax, charbon, or splenic fever. During the past year a number of cows in the same herd, had died in a similar manner, in Salem Co., N. J. A post-mortem examination was made the following day; and the abdominal viscera were found much conjested; especially the spleen, which was gorged with blood. The specimen of blood, obtained from the spleen was examined the next day, Friday. It teemed with Bacteria, the peculiar form, *Bacillus anthracis*, which is now viewed by most competent authorities as the cause of the frightful affection known as anthrax or splenic fever. The Bacilli were actually more numerous than the blood corpuscles, which appeared unchanged. The Bacilli were completely motionless; straight, bent or zigzag filaments, in the latter condition in pairs or more segments. They measured from 0.006 to 0.042 mm. in length; usually from 0.012 to 0.03 mm. Kept for some days in the blood the filaments underwent division into little chains in two, three, or more dumb-bells, which measure about 0.005 mm., or into isolated micrococci-like particles about 0.0015 mm. Many however of the filaments did not resolve themselves into these minute particles, but appeared only to grow in length and divide into segments of about 0.012 mm. in length.

On Enchytræus, Distichopus and their parasites.—Prof. LEIDY remarked that occasionally in lifting a flower-pot or in stirring the earth within, attention is sometimes attracted by the sudden wriggling of a little white worm disturbed from its rest. In the Archiv für Anatomie, 1837, Henle has given an elaborate description of the worm and named it *Enchytræus* in reference to its familliar habitation. The little pot worm is common in our vicinity, especially in damp forests under decaying leaves and timber. It was first noticed in 1773 from Denmark by O. F. Müller, and in 1880 from Greenland by Fabricius. It has also been observed in France and Germany; and therefore the little worm appears to extend over the northern parts of Europe and America.